



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Mobile Data Terminal Technical Sub-Committee Meeting

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

Members of the Mobile Data Terminal Consortium's new technical sub-committee met in Bozeman on May 7 to prepare a draft plan to develop a pilot 700 MHz data project, determine the redeployment of UHF data terminals, and look at potential low-speed VHF options for rural areas. Development of this plan is crucial to move forward with 2007 COPS grant funding for the IM Project.

Initial decisions were made to pursue deployment of a 700 MHz project in the Great Falls/Cascade County area, with a future plan to deploy lower speed data to Roosevelt County in the Northern Tier Consortium. Sub-committee members were assigned to contact proposed agencies to get agreement with the plan and present the formalized proposal at the June 16 Mobile Data Terminal Consortium meeting.

South Central Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC) met in Ennis on Wed., May 14. Board Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with county reports.

Steve Digiovanna, Madison County, reported that the Statement of Work for Virginia City (VC) Pass has been completed. Project Director Kerry O'Connell, Sweet Grass County, reported that her county's 9-1-1 calls had to be re-routed to Harlowton last week because a fencing contractor cut into an underground telephone and internet cable causing a 4-5 hour service interruption. White Sulfur Springs also lost its long-distance telephone service. Members discussed continuity-of-operations planning and system vulnerabilities. DNRC approved the Grey Cliff site, and Kerry is working on obtaining easements.

Kerry O'Connell presented a report on the last Interoperability Montana Project Director's (IMPD) meeting. The consortium agreed that Kerry's letter of support for a federal legislative appropriation reflects the interests of all counties in the consortium. She also explained suggested changes in the bylaws, and reported that a recommendation has been made to hire an executive director. Concerns were expressed about proposed hiring processes and duties of the executive director, and Kerry will present these to the Staffing Committee.

She also reported that Kenwood portable radios have been shown to meet the IM Subscriber Unit Criteria, and they work on the Lewis and Clark radio

system. She also explained that she has submitted a notice of intent that SCMIC is interested in COPS grant funding for law enforcement subscriber units. She needs specific quantities, model numbers/brands, and names of jurisdictions by May 30 as well as a commitment to provide the 12.5% local matching monies. In addition, jurisdictions have to comply with the IMTC Subscriber Unit Allocation Process.

The next SCMIC meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wed., June 11 in Livingston.

Central Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (CMICC) held its board meeting on Wed. May 14 in Great Falls. Project Director Cheri Kilby presented an update from the recent Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) meeting. Included in her report was information about the recent staffing sub-committee recommendations to run the day-to-day operations of the IM Project by full-time staff. She also reminded members that communications site updates can be found on <http://interop.mt.gov/> website.

Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, presented an Interoperability Montana Technical Committee update to the board regarding consortium sites and items that are still being worked on to bring the project to completion. David Hinds, Malmstrom Air Force Base representative, presented the latest update on Air Force progress to meet its construction timelines. To date, progress had been phenomenal, and they hope to begin construction within months. Maurice Monteau Jr., Rocky Boy's Reservation representative, is continuing to brief tribal members regarding the project.

The next meeting will be on Wed., June 11 at 10:00 am at the Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW, in Great Falls.

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The I-15/90 Corridor Interoperability Consortium met Thurs., May 15, at the Butte Chamber of Commerce. Project Director Dave McPherson brought the group up to date on the distribution of FEMA fire grant radios and informed them about COPS grant monies that are available for subscriber units.

Bob McWilliams, Beaverhead County, told the group about continued delays in the frequency acquisition process. A big risk is being faced on the Red Mountain site because the delay in getting



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frequencies delays the manufacturing of the combiners built. They need to be ordered by the end of May if they are to be installed before the snow flies. The FCC has had these frequencies in coordination for about 18 months.

Bob still expects that construction will take place this summer on the KONA, Maurer, Sawtell and VC Hill sites, and permitting is close to being finalized on all of them. He just completed Statements of Work for these sites that need IMTC approval and have to be submitted with the NEPA application. A contractor is being hired to conduct environmental assessments on three green sites this summer to allow for 2009 construction.

Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, said that microwave engineering has been budgeted for and work will take place in the consortium this summer. Mark said the IM Project badly needs to get XL Heights, Bull Mountain and Lost Creek improvements accomplished to facilitate trunking at Gallatin County. Motorola spectrum fingerprinting, R56 auditing, life-safety issue documentation is scheduled on the Fleecer Mountain site this summer.

Project Director Dave McPherson updated the group on the recent IM Project Directors meeting.

The next consortium meeting will begin at 10:00 am at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St., on Thurs., June 19.

Saskatchewan Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group

By Chris Christensen cchristensen@mt.gov

The Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) held a Regional Meeting in Saskatoon on May 15, which Chris Christensen attended. CITIG is conducting meetings in each province of Canada, and has been inviting U.S. border state representatives to also attend. Earlier this year, Scott Bradford attended the Alberta meeting.

The agenda included representatives from Industry Canada, provincial and local governments. The SAFECOM Continuum was presented and referred to throughout the meeting to emphasize the strategy of taking advantage of lessons already learned in the U. S. Currently, the Province of Saskatchewan is building a VHF trunked MA/Com system. Originally planned for law enforcement, the build out now includes all public service agencies. Valuable contacts were made and a commitment was made to continue to work together in the future on border communications issues.

For more information about CITIG, visit:
CITIGForum@cprc.org

Upcoming Meetings

May 19

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am • Room 317, State Capitol

May 20

Western Interoperability Comm. Consortium (WICC)
Polson • 10:00 am
DES Offices, Lake County Courthouse, 106 4th Ave. E.

May 21

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

May 21

Jefferson County Radio Users & Stakeholders, 6:45 - 8:45 pm
Boulder • Jefferson County District Courtroom, 2nd floor

May 22

Big Sky 11 Consortium
Hardin • 10:00 am • Basement Extension Office
Big Horn County Courthouse, 121 3rd St W

May 28

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

June 2

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

June 2

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

June 3

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

June 5 (Please note date change)

Northern Tier (NTIP)
Havre • 9:00 am • Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

June 11

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am • Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

June 11

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Livingston • 10:00 am
Park County Courthouse, 414 East Callender Street

June 11

Statewide Interoperable Executive Council (SIEC)
Helena • 10:00 am • Location to be announced

June 16 (Please note that the May mtg. was cancelled)

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium
Bozeman • 10:00 am • City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

June 19

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am • Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.